

cleanup and rebuilding tasks. This disaster has exposed the fault lines of race and poverty in our society that we all knew existed but which have been ignored, especially in recent years.

NCJW calls upon our leaders and lawmakers to realign their priorities, and we pledge to redouble our efforts to ensure that this happens. We must prioritize funding to address human needs over tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the wealthy and drain vital budgetary resources. We must act to address the vestiges of racism that linger in our society. And we must act to ensure that the communities that rise from the rubble embody a new vision of equality and social justice.

H.R. 3673, SECOND EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest condolences and sympathies to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. With the recent devastation of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, our Nation has reached a state of emergency. My thoughts and prayers are with those who have been tragically uprooted from their communities, or have lost loved ones in the path of the destruction. I wholeheartedly support the effort to provide food, water, and daily necessities to these victims, as well as the long-term effort to rebuild our Gulf Coast and house the now-homeless.

As we move forward with the effort to provide for families and to rebuild, it is Congress' job to ensure that federal aid and taxpayer dollars are spent appropriately and are reaching the truly needy. Last week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency was spending just over \$500 million a day, an unprecedented rate, and over the weekend spending reached \$2 billion a day. Over \$60 billion in emergency appropriations has been allocated, a record for disaster relief, and Congress is expected to authorize more funds in the coming weeks.

I strongly urge that future spending bills for Hurricane Katrina include controls on how the money will be spent; that this spending is offset with reductions in other programs, just as Congress did following the California earthquake and the Oklahoma City bombing; and that Federal resources are allocated for rebuilding only where State and local governments and the private sector cannot provide the funds.

Additionally, I encourage accountability and meticulous record keeping within the federal organizations funding the emergency and rebuilding efforts. I feel it is imperative that the Department of Homeland Security and other related agencies help these citizens and rebuild these towns, but in a financially responsible manner, ensuring every dollar is spent wisely and fairly in an effort to best help the victims of this tragedy. In this time of disaster, it is important that we do not saddle future generations with unmanageable debt, but rather work together to exercise fiscal responsibility.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER ROBERT FERRARA

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor a dedicated and heroic public servant from the Nineteenth Congressional District of New York. We nearly lost one of our finest citizens when Town of Chester Police Officer Robert Ferrara was critically injured while serving in the line of duty.

Officer Robert Ferrara, age 34, was seriously wounded on the night of July 20, 2005, when a drunk driver smashed head-on into his police vehicle. He suffered multiple fractures throughout his body including: a punctured lung, a ruptured spleen, a lacerated liver, a kidney abrasion, and a laceration to his head.

Officer Ferrara has dutifully served the Town of Chester since 1999 as a police officer. Previously, he spent 4 years working as a Deputy Sheriff with the Orange County Sheriffs Office. In addition to his public service, Officer Ferrara is the dedicated father of a 7-year-old girl.

Officer Ferrara's relentless determination and resolve to overcome tragedy has served as a guiding light. His willpower and inner strength have touched his family, his friends, and even those who never met him but have heard of his courage. His community has been inspired by Officer Ferrara. Over 200 people recently participated in a blood drive in his honor, with some waiting in line for hours.

Officer Ferrara deserves recognition for he symbolizes the likes of an exemplary officer and diligent public servant possessing an unwavering commitment to serving others and protecting the well-being of the community.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF LOUIS MENDELSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Louis Mendelson; and

Whereas, Louis Mendelson will certainly be remembered by all those who knew him because of his upright character; and

Whereas, Louis Mendelson was born and raised in Bellaire, Ohio and owned the former Berman's Mens Store in Bellaire; and

Whereas, Louis Mendelson was active in many endeavors in his community as a member of the Temple Shalom Synagogue in Wheeling, West Virginia, a member of the Bellaire Area Chamber of Commerce, and Bellaire Kiwanis Club; and

Whereas, Louis Mendelson will be remembered and honored for his public service as a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II.

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Louis Mendelson.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF NORTH TEXANS TO HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the compassionate contributions of North Texans towards the hurricane relief efforts. During the past two weeks, televisions across the nation have brought into our living rooms images of the terrible destruction and suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina. Obviously our hearts ache at seeing our fellow Americans in desperate need, struggling at first just to survive, and now beginning to put their lives back together, one piece at a time. This desperation and despair, however, has not gone unanswered. Americans have come together in the past weeks, giving new meaning to the word "community," and the North Texas community has been a leader in this endeavor.

The City of Dallas and the surrounding areas have served as models of compassion, generosity, and leadership as North Texas has welcomed thousands who have been so tragically displaced by the hurricane into our neighborhoods and communities. So many sectors have given so selflessly of their time and resources to those in desperate need: city and county administrations, transit agencies, faith-based institutions, educational institutions, private and non-profit sector entities, and regular citizens have answered humanity's greatest call.

The American Red Cross in North Texas has come to the aid of thousands of evacuees here in Dallas, providing much needed meals and beds. Volunteers at the Call Center of the Dallas Emergency Operations Center have fielded thousands of calls, helping to organize this massive relief effort. Transportation has been generously provided by Dallas Area Rapid Transit, who have distributed over 3500 transit passes to evacuees, and the Dallas Water Utilities Distribution Division has assisted by providing pallets and personnel at the Dallas Convention Center.

The area's first responders have acted with bravery and selflessness. The Dallas Police Department has committed over 300 officers to support evacuee operations. The Texas State Guard has provided invaluable medical and shelter management services, deploying over 250 guardsmen to the Convention Center and Reunion Arena shelters alone. Fire Rescue and EMS personnel have lent their expertise to the relief effort at shelters throughout Dallas, and nearly two thousand patients have been served.

The Surgeon General of the United States, Richard Carmona, has described medical operations in Dallas as "nothing short of astounding," and Mr. Justo Hernandez, the coordinating officer on site with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has reported that, in his 17 years of service with the agency, FEMA has never been as well received as it has in Dallas. Louisiana State Representative Derrick Shepherd described the effort as a "first-class administration of a difficult administration" and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin stated, "People are doing great work everywhere in Texas".